

It was in 1860 that Wm. M. Wall moved his family and all their belongings to what was called Round Valley. The valley was practically enclosed by mountains and was an ideal place to graze cattle because of the protective hills.

Because these first settlers still had property and interests in Provo and Heber they were in Round Valley only part of the time but by the winter of 1864-5 it became a permanent settlement, with at least five families staying there that winter. They were the Walls, George and Emma Brown, the William Jasper Borens, Dixon H. Greers and one or possibly two other families. The men had been so busy building homes and buildings that they failed to get enough hay put up for their cattle to winter on. Before spring broke their livestock were on the verge of starvation so they diverted the warm water of Spring Creek out onto the meadows, melting the two feet deep snow from the grass and saved their stock.

Because of his leadership ability, Elder Wall was called to serve as the Presiding Elder in Provo Valley and was responsible for all the Church activity in the new area. He served until 1861 when Joseph S. Murdock was sent by President Brigham Young to be bishop of the new ward in Heber. Elder Wall continued as presiding elder in Round Valley until his death Sept. 18, 1869.

Among the early settlers in Round Valley were Enoch Gurr, Dixon Greer and James Gurr and their families. Later came J. W. Boren, Moses Mecham, Edward Stokes, James and Reuben Allred, Guy Kaiser, George Brown, Luke Burdick and Francis Kerby. These settlers and their families believed that they could easily cultivate all the land in the valley and so they discouraged others from coming in.

However, they soon found that the water supply was sufficient and that the community needed more people to build socially as well as financially. So the Battys, Mechams and Bigelows, Martin Ford, William Stoker, John Davis, James Burnes, James Wheeler and the Thompsons came in, bringing their families.

These and others busily engaged in building homes, clearing the land of logs and sagebrush and planting their crops.

One Sunday afternoon in the Spring of 1865 as Elder Wall was conducting the Sabbath meeting, a messenger came from Heber City with word that the Indians were on the warpath under the direction of Chief Black Hawk and his brother, Chief Tabby. The instructions were for the people to leave Round Valley and come to Heber. So, under the direction of Elder Wall, the people packed what belongings they could and left the next morning for Heber.

Just a few months previously, James Allred and his wife Jennie had buried their little daughter, Clara. Her death was the first in Round Valley and brought much sorrow to the people. When the order came to move to Heber, "Aunt Jennie" as she was known, said she felt great disappointment in leaving the little grave, not knowing whether she

would ever see it again. As the wagons moved out of Round Valley she kept looking back until they passed over a hill and could no longer see the settlement. Then she cried all the way to Heber.

Now and then the Indians had stolen some of the cattle from the people, but generally left the people alone. However, the settlement was at least a day's wagon ride away from the other settlers in the valley, so it was decided in 1865 to build a fort for protection. Twenty families moved into the fort area when it was finished later that year.

Crops had been planted in Round Valley and so the men came back as often as they felt it was safe, and irrigated the fields. They reported that in their lonely travels between Heber and Round Valley they never once encountered an Indian.

As they came back to their homes they decided to build a meeting house for their Church services, school use and entertainment. Bringing cottonwood logs from the river bottoms and using mud to fill in the cracks the people put up the one room log house inside the fort walls.

As they plastered the mud on the walls they had to build fires and keep them going all night to dry the mud. The men said they would not consent to stay all night and keep the fires going unless the women folk stayed also. The women said they would agree to stay providing they could dance. So it was agreed, and they spent the entire night celebrating the completion of their Church house by dancing. A Brother Stocks furnished the music on his violin, but he only knew two tunes, "The Soldier's Joy" and "Irish Washer Woman." He played these over and over again all night.

Jennie Allred and Harriette Greer were the only two who could waltz, so they entertained the others with their waltz steps. Bro. Stocks couldn't play any waltz tunes so the ladies whistled melodies in three-quarter time for their waltzing. They all participated in the square dances.

When the valley was first settled the farming was done on a cooperative basis. All the men worked together on the land and then at harvest time the crops were divided equitably among the families of the community. However, after a few years the farm land was divided into 20 and 40 acre tracts and the settlers applied for homesteading rights.

With the organization of a ward of the Church July 15, 1877 and the appointment of Bishop William E. Nuttall the people began looking for a suitable name for their ward and community. It was unanimously decided that Round Valley from henceforth should be Wallsburg in honor of the illustrious William Madison Wall, founder and "first citizen" of the community.



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